



Idaho Forest Legacy Program Project Applications for FFY 2014

Summary

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is receiving project applications for consideration for the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) in federal fiscal year 2014. The FLP is a voluntary program that seeks to protect environmentally important forestlands that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. The FLP operates on the “willing buyer, willing seller” principle, and the program assures that both traditional uses of private lands and the public benefits of America's forests are protected for future generations. The FLP provides an incentive-based mechanism to maintain working forest, protect important fish and wildlife habitat, conserve watershed functions, and maintain recreation opportunities.

More information about the Forest Legacy Program can be found at:

IDL: http://www.idl.idaho.gov/forest_legacy/legacy-1.htm

U.S. Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml>

Landowners are encouraged to work with a Land Trust Organization to develop their application. Project proposals are evaluated and prioritized by the Idaho Lands Resource Coordination Council using the following categories: *Importance*, *Threatened*, *Strategic*, level of *Readiness* and degree of *Support*. Qualifying applications will be forwarded to the regional and national ranking committees for final ranking and funding consideration. Funds are awarded to successful projects two to three years after submitting the initial application.

Applicants are highly encouraged to contact Karen Sjoquist, Idaho Department of Lands, Forest Legacy Coordinator, at (208) 263-5104 prior to submitting an application to ensure the proposal meets State and Federal program requirements.

Application Requirements

IDL recommends that all applications be submitted in an electronic format although handwritten applications will be accepted. Strict formatting guidelines include:

- Document Length: Maximum of 25 pages (8 ½" x 11"), one sided, excluding supporting documents (see Section E)
- Font Size: Minimum of 10 pt
- Margins: Minimum of ½" on all sides

1. Project must meet the Idaho Forest Legacy Program *goals and objectives* which include:

Goals:

- Reduce forestland conversions

- Maintain forest sustainability
- Keep working forests “*working*”
- Protect and enhance water quality and quantity
- Conserve and protect riparian and wetland areas
- Sustain wildlife habitat and connectivity

Objectives:

- Focus efforts where large areas of private forestland face threats of conversion
 - Encourage private landowners to work collaboratively to strengthen forest resource management
 - Secure additional conservation investments in private forestland
2. Project must be in an Idaho Forest Legacy Priority Area and a forest type listed in the [Idaho Assessment of Need](#) (see map below).
 3. Project must be sponsored by a federal or state agency or a land trust organization.
 4. Parcel must be privately owned.
 5. Project must be at least five (5) acres in size.
 6. Project must include a minimum of 25% non-federal match. FLP will fund *up to* 75% of project costs.
 7. Parcel must be at least 75% forestland (as defined in the [Idaho Assessment of Need](#)).
 8. Landowners agree to follow federal Forest Legacy Program requirements and implementation rules which include:
 - Executing a Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (LFSP)
 - Allowing an annual compliance inspection
 - Signing a perpetual conservation easement with the State of Idaho, with the stated purposes of maintaining, enhancing, or conserving in perpetuity the forestland and conservation values of the property
 9. Project must include a signed “Amicable Agreement” form.

Applications must be received by **May 31, 2012** to be considered for fiscal year 2014. All proposals must address the Application Requirements and include the required supporting documentation. Applications received after the May 31, 2012 deadline will not be considered for FFY 2014. Please submit 1 full electronic copy of the project proposal to the attention:

Idaho Department of Lands
 Karen Sjoquist, Forest Legacy Program Coordinator
 2550 Highway 2 West
 Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

tel: 208-263-5104 | fax: 208-263-0724
 e-mail: ksjoquist@idl.idaho.gov



FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM FFY 2014 APPLICATION

Your application should be in outline form, cover all topics listed below, and be presented in this exact order. This ensures that all projects are evaluated in a fair and equitable manner by the State and National review panels. Applicants are encouraged to concise; repetition is discouraged.

A. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:
Address:
Phone number(s):
Fax:
E-mail:

B. SPONSOR INFORMATION

Organization:
Contact:
Address:
Phone number(s):
Fax:
E-mail:

C. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Forest Legacy Area: Northeast, Northern Panhandle, Southwest, South Central, Southeast or Central (see map)

Project Name:

Project Town (nearest):

Project County:

Project Location: Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

General Legal Description: Township: _____ Range: _____
Section: _____ Quarter: _____

Project Acres:

Estimated Current Land Value: \$

Estimated Conservation Easement Value: \$

*Estimated Due Diligence Cost: \$

Total Project Cost (Conservation Easement Value + Due Diligence Cost): \$

Forest Legacy Program Funding Request (maximum 75% of total costs): \$

**Non-Federal Cost-Share (minimum 25% match required): \$

*Do not include stewardship/monitoring costs

**A 50% or greater non-federal match will enhance application rating

Project Description:

This description should provide the evaluators with an overview of the project, summarizing how it meets the core criteria and ultimately, why the project should be considered for the Forest Legacy Program (do not exceed 1 page).

D. CORE CRITERIA

Importance

These criteria reflect the environmental, economic and social values conserved by the project and the scale of people's interest in its protection. More points will be given to projects that demonstrate multiple benefits and at a broad scale of significance.

1. Forestry: Describe how the landowner/property demonstrates sustainable forest practices in accordance with a management plan (additional points for third party certification), contributes to the resource-based economy for a community or region and demonstrates attributes to sustain a productive forest.
2. Non-Timber Economic Benefits: Describe other activities that provide economic benefit such as hunting leases, ranching, agriculture, non-timber forest products, recreation or tourism.
3. Threatened or Endangered Species Habitat: Does the site have documented occurrence or designated habitat for rare, threatened or endangered plants or animals?
4. Fish, Wildlife, Plants, and Unique Forest Communities: Describe the site's unique forest communities and/or important fish or wildlife habitat. Specify a wildlife conservation plan or strategy if applicable.
5. Water Supply Protection: Describe any contiguity with or direct access to riparian areas, forested wetlands, shorelines, river systems, sensitive watershed lands, buffer to public drinking water supply or an aquifer recharge area.
6. Public Access/Recreation: Does the property provide full or limited public access (may include specific use restrictions)? What types of recreation opportunities does the property provide?
7. Scenic: Describe the site's scenic attributes and if it is located within a viewshed of a formally designated scenic feature or area (such as trail, river, or highway).
8. Historic/Cultural/Tribal: Describe formally documented historical, cultural or tribal features that are located on site.

Threatened

These criteria evaluate the likelihood of conversion from forestry to non-forest uses. Describe the current and future threat of conversion to non-forest uses and how it will result in a loss of forest values and public benefits.

1. Legal Protection: Describe the degree of legal protections, or lack of, that currently exist on the property (e.g. current zoning or existing easements), if these protections remove the threat of conversion and to what extent.
2. Land/Landowner Circumstances: Describe any extenuating circumstances that could potentially lead to forest conversion (e.g. property held in an estate, aging landowner and future ownership by heirs is uncertain, property is up for sale or has a sale pending, purchase offers, etc.).

3. Adjacent Land Use Changes: Examples - rate of development growth and conversion, rate of population growth, rate of change in ownership, etc.
4. Ability to Develop: Describe physical attributes of the property that would facilitate conversion (e.g. access, zoning, utilities, etc.).

Strategic

These criteria reflect the project's relevance or relationship to conservation efforts on a broader perspective. The following considerations will be used to evaluate a project's strategic relationship to a conservation plan(s).

1. Conservation Strategy: Describe how the project fits within a designated conservation plan, strategy or initiative (include the scale of significance of the conservation plan, the project's contribution to that plan and it's placement within the plan area).
2. Compliment Protected Lands: Describe how the project is strategically linked to other protected lands (e.g. State, Federal, or privately owned protected lands (refuges, conservation easements, etc.)).

Readiness

These criteria evaluate the degree of due diligence completed and reflects a landowner's commitment to completing the Forest Legacy application process in a timely manner. Specify completed items and include date of completion. Credit will only be given for completed items. Please include supporting documentation of completion (Section E).

1. Cost estimate (e.g. completed market analysis or preliminary appraisal)
2. Final or draft conservation easement
3. Cost share commitment (source(s) and amount(s) of non-federal match)
4. Signed option or purchase and sales agreement
5. Completed title search
6. Completed minerals determination
7. Completed Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan

Support

Provide a brief list here of supporting parties. Support is encouraged from any combination of individuals or organizations, although support from federal, state or local elected officials, government agencies and land-trust/conservation organizations are highly encouraged. Letters of support should be provided in your supporting documentation (Section E).

E. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (formatting requirements do not apply)

1. Cover Page
2. Maps – state and local scales
3. Photographs – aerial, property photos, etc.
4. Signed Amicable Agreement Form
5. Letters of Support
6. Documentation of Readiness
7. Full legal description of project property

LANDOWNER AMICABLE AGREEMENT

I understand that the purpose of the Idaho Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is to ascertain and protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses and to promote forestland protection and other conservation opportunities. Furthermore, I understand that participation in the Forest Legacy Program is entirely voluntary. With those understandings, I submit this application for consideration for the Forest Legacy Program.

To the best of my knowledge, the information in this application is true and complete. I agree to allow members of the USDA Forest Service, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho's Forest Legacy committee or their designee's to conduct inspections, appraisals, surveys, data collection, annual monitoring or other permitted activities on my property at a mutually agreeable time for the purposes of this application and that I shall be notified in advance of all such inspections.

I also understand that a conservation easement will not be purchased if negotiations do not reach an amicable agreement or if the property does not meet the needs or qualifications of Idaho's Forest Legacy Program. The State of Idaho will only purchase conservation easements from willing sellers.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Landowner or Authorized Agent* Signature(s)	Date

***Proof of legal authorization must accompany application**

